

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND  
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The County of Los Angeles is home to the largest number of homeless veterans in the country, numbering approximately 4,343 in the latest count. Recognizing this problem, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded new HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, known as "VASH vouchers," to the region to house chronically homeless veterans.

These VASH vouchers provide homeless and chronically homeless veterans with housing assistance coupled with individually appropriate supportive services needed to retain housing. However significant barriers remain in place for homeless veterans to obtain housing, even with a voucher in hand. That is why, upon our motion earlier this year, the Board directed the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide recommendations on reducing those barriers to housing.

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MOTION

SOLIS	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
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ANTONOVICH	_____

The recommendations formed the basis for the Home for Heroes report to the Board and included the following:

- Improve access to and increase existing but limited housing stock through better communication with veterans, potential landlords and property managers who could rent to veterans and other homeless population, allowing vouchers to cross County and City portals, increasing support staff and reuse of existing government properties within the County's boundaries.
- Remove the multiple financial and procedural move-in barriers by working with partner agencies to cover deposits, pre-inspections repairs, and appropriation of necessary furniture and appliances.
- Tighten the existing Housing Safety Net by including the veteran claims process, legal assistance and education or training as part of their wrap around services.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, the Department of Mental Health and the Community Development Commission, develop an implementation plan for the recommendations in the Home for Heroes report, and report back in 30 days.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that \$5 million of available Homeless Prevention funds be set-aside for this purpose.

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